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THE
GOD
WHO
SPEAKS

THROUGH
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THE
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Using pictures to help us pray with the Word of God

MARY FROM LA GRANDE CRÈCHE BY LES SOEURS DE BETHLEEM



Read:

Gaze for some time on this statue. See Mary's pose of acceptance and surrender to the Word of God as announced to her at the Annunciation.

The Angel Gabriel spoke of God's choice of her to be the Mother of his Son and she, a young girl of perhaps 14 or 15 years of age, was puzzled and afraid.

When the Angel said that the power of God would overshadow her and the Spirit would come upon her and that the child to be born of her would be the Son of God, she humbly bowed her head and extended her hands in total acceptance. "I am the handmaid (servant) of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you have said"

Reflect:

When Mary assented to the Angel's request to be the Mother of God, she did not know what the future might hold. As we know, she had to repeat that 'Yes' daily even to standing beneath the cross of Calvary. The same is true for us when we commit ourselves to marriage or to any state in life.

None of us can see into the future, so we need the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit. Mary's strength and humility can be ours if we listen to the will of God and follow it as she did. She heard the Word of God and observed it. In this way she became not only the Mother of God but the first disciple of Christ.

We are all called to be disciples, to love and serve the Lord as she did, so Mary can help us in this.

Respond:

Holy Mother of God, blessed are you among women. You listened and followed what was asked of you and so you became the womb that carried Jesus. This is your distinction, that no earthly being can ever repeat.

Pray for us, that we may become worthy to follow your Son.

Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Rest:

Place yourself interiorly in the same position as Mary in this statue – at peace and totally at the disposal of God. Open your hands to receive the graces God wishes to give to you.

Repeat as long as necessary:

Surrender – receive; surrender – receive; surrender – receive.

Return:

Straight after the Annunciation, Mary went in haste to visit her cousin Elisabeth who was also with child – John the Baptist. We can only wonder at the meeting of the two.

Let us try to do some act of practical charity today.